

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 04243

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, TW
SUBJECT: CH'EN CHU CASE/SECOND APPROACH TO MOFA

REF: STATE 166765

1. POLITICAL COUNSELOR SAW WANG MENG-HSIEN, DIRECTOR OF NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, ON JULY 5 AND RAISED THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEW ON THE CH'EN CHU CASE IN REFTEL. WE EXPLAINED THE RATIONALE FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONDING TO QUERIES FROM THE CONGRESS OR THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE ROC ANSWERS TO OUR QUESTIONS, EXPRESSED USG VIEW THAT DETENTION INCOMMUNICADO FOR FOUR MONTHS CONSTITUTED A VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AND REITERATED OUR REQUEST FOR AN EMBASSY OFFICER TO ATTEND A TRIAL. WANG SAID HE WOULD REPORT OUR VIEWS TO HIS SUPERIORS AND WOULD REPLY SOON. HE COMMENTED THAT SINCE IT WAS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER MISS CH'EN WOULD BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL, OR IF SO WHETHER IT WOULD BE A CIVILIAN OR MILITARY COURT, IT WAS PERHAPS PREMATURE TO ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF EMBASSY ATTENDANCE. HE SAID HE WOULD NONETHELESS TRY TO GET SOME MORE FORMAL ANSWER ON THIS QUESTION ALSO.

2. WHEN AMBASSADOR RAISED CH'EN CHU CASE WITH VICE MINISTER FRED CH'EN JUNE 30, CH'EN MENTIONED THAT HE
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HAD RAISED THE CH'EN CHU CASE AND DISCUSSED U.S. INTEREST IN IT WITH BOTH THE PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDENT. CH'EN SAID HE DID SO BECAUSE HE KNEW THE HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECT OF THE CASE COULD BE AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN US-ROC RELATIONS. CH'EN INDICATED HIS PERSONAL DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE RESPONSES TO OUR QUESTIONS PROVIDED BY TGC WERE INADEQUATE AND SAID HE WAS WORKING ON THE PROBLEM

AND HOPED TO GET SOMETHING MORE. AT THE SAME TIME, CH'EN NOTED THAT THERE WERE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS ARISING FROM DIFFERENCES IN U.S. AND CHINESE LAW. FOR EXAMPLE, UNDER CHINESE LAW A SUSPECT IS CONSIDERED GUILTY UNTIL PROVEN INNOCENT; THIS PREMISE UNDERLIES THE PRACTICE OF HOLDING A SUSPECT INCOMMUNICADO UNTIL INVESTIGATION IS COMPLETED.

3. A HIGH-RANKING GROC SECURITY OFFICIAL RELAYED HIS DESIRE TO INFORM THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE AUTHORITIES EXPECT TO COMPLETE THEIR INVESTIGATION OF CH'EN CHU BY JULY 14. IT WAS IMPLIED THAT THE CASE WOULD PROCEED TO TRIAL IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER. THE SAME SOURCE STATED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO REPEAT NO ATTEMPT TO BRING FALSE OR TRUMPED-UP CHARGES AGAINST CH'EN; THAT SHE IS IN GOOD HEALTH AND IS BEING WELL TREATED.

4. WE HAVE HEARD THAT THE COMMITTEE FOR THE SELF-DETERMINATION OF TAIWAN IN THE U.S. INTENDS TO HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 7 IN WASHINGTON ON THE CH'EN CASE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE TEXT OF ANY IMPORTANT ARTICLES IN THE U.S. PRESS CONCERNING CH'EN CHU AND OF ANY STATEMENTS OR REPLIES TO QUESTIONS MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT. UNGER

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